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LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER, 1943.

Council Offices,
Flax Bourton,
Bristol.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the Year ending 31st. DECEMBER, 1943.

Medical Officer of Health - Herbert Newsome, M.B., B.S.,
Sanitary Inspector - E. T. H. Hawkins, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
2nd. Sanitary Inspector - B. Barker, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Long Ashton Rural District Council.

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of the District during the past year. The information therein is, as far as possible, in conformity with the requirements of the Minister of Health, as laid down in Circular 2773, dated March, 1943.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area:- 46,515 acres.
Population (Census 1931):- 20,378.
Population (Registrar General's estimate):- 23,960 to the middle of 1943.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943):- 6,495.
Rateable Value:- £172,489.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate:- £716.

There are no important changes to note as regards the social conditions and general characteristics of the area, except that it is classed as a "Reception Area" for evacuation purposes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		M.	F.	Total.	
Live Births:-	Legitimate.....	191	158	349	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:- 14.94.
	Illegitimate....	7	2	9	
	Totals....	198	160	358	
Still Births:-	Legitimate.....	8	Nil	8	Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births:- 24.5.
	Illegitimate...	1	Nil	1	
	Totals....	9	Nil	9	

	M.	F.	Total.	
Deaths:-	127.	150.	277.	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 11.13.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:- Puerperal sepsis ... Nil.
Other puerperal causes 2.

Death rates of infants under 1 year of age:- Total deaths 15.
" " all infants per 1,000 live births:- 41·8.
" " legitimate infants per 1,000 live births:- 42·9.
" " illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 111.1.

Ages of Deaths of Infants:-

Under 1 week	6
1 to 4 weeks	5
1 to 6 months	4
6 to 12 months	Nil.

Of these 13 were due to premature birth and congenital disease or defects, 1 to convulsions due to Influenza (aged 1 month) and 1 to acholuric Jaundice (aged 4 months).

Deaths from Measles (all ages):- ... ... Nil.
" " Cancer (all ages):- ... ... 39.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages):- ... ... 1.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age):- Nil.

The total number of births (358) is less than last year (391).
" Birth rate (14·94) is slightly lower " " " (15·7).
" " " for England and Wales for 1943 is 16·5.
" total number of deaths (277) is higher than last year (250).
" death rate (11·13) is higher than last year (10·06).
" " " for England and Wales for 1943 is 12·1.
" Infant mortality rate (41·8) is considerably higher than last year (20·4).
" " " " for England and Wales is 49.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Tuberculosis (respiratory)	13	Syphilis	1
" (other forms)	1	Diabetes	2
Influenza	11	Nehpritis	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	13	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2
Bronchitis	14		
Other respiratory diseases	2	Appendicitis	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	Other digestive diseases	6
Acute Infective Encephalitis	1	Puerperal sepsis	Nil
Whooping Cough	1	Other maternal causes	2
Cancer (all forms)	39	Premature birth	7
Heart diseases	70	Congenital defects	10

CAUSES OF DEATH (Contd).

Intracranial vascular lesions (including cerebral haemorrhage and embolism)	28	Suicide	3
		Road traffic accidents	3
		Other violent causes	10
Other diseases of the circulatory system	10	All other causes	25.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Notifications	Removals to Hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet fever	53	30	Nil
Diphtheria	12	12	Nil
Erysipelas	5	1	Nil
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	2	1
Dysentery (sonné)	16	1	Nil
Pneumonia (all forms)	21	1	13
Food poisoning (salmonella type)	5	1	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	1
Whooping Cough	98	0	1
Measles	752	0	Nil

There has been no notification of small pox but the continued neglect of vaccination is a source of great danger to the community if the disease should be imported into the area at any time, a possibility which appears to be greater now than for many years.

There was an increase of scarlet fever notifications, 53 compared with 18 last year, but most of the cases were mild in character and there were no deaths from this disease or from diphtheria. Measles was very prevalent throughout the district and 752 cases were notified, but there was not a single death from it. Towards the end of the year a number of whooping cough cases were reported.

30 of the scarlet fever and all the 12 diphtheria cases notified were removed for treatment to isolation hospital.

Diphtheria Immunization.

This is under the control of the County Authority, all children of school age (over 5 years) are inocculated by the County School Medical Officers, subject to consent of parents. Children under school age are inocculated by the general medical practitioners of the district, the prophylactic serum being supplied free of charge by the County Authority.

The following is the record of the number of children immunized during the past two years:-

	By private practitioners.	By school Medical Officers.	Totals.
Number of children immunized during 1942 ...	416	59	475
Number of children immunized during 1943 ...	301	194	495
Totals ...	717	253	970.

It is estimated that about 25% of the children in this area have been immunized so far.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Notifications	15	10	5	4	34
Removals to Sanatoria	2	4	1	1	8
Deaths	9	4	-	1	14

The number of notifications is exactly the same as last year, the deaths are 5 more than in 1942. Health visiting, sanatorium treatment, and tuberculosis dispensaries are under the control of the County Authority. Dispensaries for this area are at Bristol and Clevedon. There has been no necessity to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Acts and Regulations 1925, as notification is satisfactory.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS and DEATHS in AGE PERIODS.

Age periods	Notifications.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1st year								1
1 to 5 years				1				
5 to 15 "			2	2				
15 to 25 "	7	5		1	2			
25 to 35 "	2		2		2	2		
35 to 45 "	3	4	1		1	1		
45 to 55 "	3				2	1		
55 to 65 "		1			1			
65 and over					1			
Totals	15	10	5	4	9	4	-	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A list of members of the Public Health staff is given at the commencement of the report. Laboratory facilities are provided by the County Authority at the County Hall, Taunton, and also for certain urgent cases at the Bristol Public Health Department at Whatley Road, Clifton. Hospital treatment for cases of infectious diseases is provided at the Bristol Infectious diseases hospital by arrangement with the Bristol Health Authority.

There is no change to report in such matters as ambulance facilities, nursing in the home, treatment centres and clinics, or hospitals, public and voluntary.

Legislation in force in the Area is also unchanged.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no shortage of water in the District during the year, and no important extensions of water mains have been carried out.

All public supplies owned by the Council were examined bacteriologically. One of these supplies was found during the early months of the year to be slightly contaminated, the contamination being caused by abnormal flooding of the springs. This contamination lasted for a short time and all later samples taken of this supply have been satisfactory.

Chlorination of the Yatton Parochial Supply continued during the year.

Twenty one samples of water for bacteriological analysis were taken during the year and examined at the County Laboratory.

The statement required by the Ministry of Health as to the sufficiency and quality of the water supply of the several parts of the area is given below, together with a table showing the proportion of houses and population supplied from the mains direct to the houses or by means of standpipes.

Abbots Leigh. Most of this parish is supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company, the supply being constant. The Blackmoor Road area consisting of fifteen or sixteen dwellings is badly in need of a piped supply, the existing supplies, consisting of rainwater tanks and shallow wells being insufficient both in quantity and quality.

Backwell. The Farleigh, Backwell, West Town, and Church Town portions of this parish are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company, the supply being constant.

The Backwell Common part, consisting of about twenty houses depends on wells, the sufficiency and quality of the water being fairly satisfactory.

A small group of dwellings at Backwell Hill are dependent on rain water supplies.

The hamlet of Downside is supplied from the Axbridge Rural District Council's mains, six houses having a supply laid on, and the remainder obtaining water from two standpipes. This supply is constant.

Barrow Gurney. A group of houses in the village has a piped supply of the Bristol Waterworks Company's water. The supply in the remainder of the parish is from wells and rain water tanks.

The water supply to the Barrow Hill and Bridgwater Road area, which comprises a few milk producing farms, is insufficient, being chiefly from wells which tend to give out in summer. A survey has been made of this area and approach may be made by the Council to the Water Company for an extension of their mains in the near future to this area.

Bishopsworth. The whole of this parish, except for a few outlying houses, is supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company, the supply being constant.

Brockley. The majority of the houses obtain the Bristol Waterworks Company's supply.

Clapton-in-Gordano. A few houses at Cadbury Camp are supplied by a private undertaking, the water being obtained from the Clevedon Water Company's supply.

The remainder of the parish is supplied by wells, etc. The Rodwell in the village is maintained by the Council, the supply being derived from springs, the housholders obtaining their water from a pump fitted to the collecting tank. This water has always, on analysis, been found to be satisfactory.

Dundry. The greater portion of this parish depends on wells, etc., some of these being of doubtful purity. A few houses at Highridge Common have the Bristol Waterworks Company's supply.

The four Council houses and an adjoining house are supplied from a deep borehole on the site. It is worthy of consideration as to whether a piped supply from this borehole could be provided to Dundry village.

Easton-in-Gordano. Practically the whole of the parish is supplied by the Portishead Water Company, the supply being constant.

The Markham and Haberfield area, consisting of about eighteen houses and depending on rain water and wells, suffers from periodical shortage. Negotiations are proceeding with the Portishead Water Company for an early extension of their main to this area.

Flax Bourton. This parish is supplied with a constant supply by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Kenn. The Clevedon Water Company supply the village portion of this parish, the supply being constant, The remainder of the area depends on shallow wells and rain water.

Kingston Seymour. This parish has no piped supply and the whole area, which is scattered and consists of many milk producing farms, is dependent on shallow wells of doubtful purity. A scheme was prepared just prior to the outbreak of war for supplying this area by extending the Council's Yatton supply.

Long Ashton. The whole of this parish is supplied with a constant supply by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Nailsea. The major portion is supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains which give a constant supply.

The West End portion of the parish depends on wells, and an extension of main to this neighbourhood is needed. The same remarks apply to a small group of houses known as The Grove.

About thirty houses at Bucklands Batch have a piped supply from an old colliery shaft, which is owned by a private undertaking. The supply is sampled periodically and is satisfactory.

North Weston. The Redcliffe Bay area is served by standpipes, the water being obtained by the Redcliffe Bay Mutual Bungalow Association from the Portishead Water Company, the members of the Association having keys to the standpipes. None of the bungalows have the supply which is limited owing to the size of the main, laid on, and their water supplies are augmented by rain water cisterns.

The North Weston and Honeylands area is served by a constant supply from the Portishead Water Company.

A small group of houses near the Black Rock Quarries have a supply laid on from a borehole owned by the Black Rock Quarry Company. The quality of this supply is satisfactory.

The portion of the parish situate in the village of Weston-in-Gordano has a supply from the Council's mains, the water being obtained from the Walton Estate Supply at Walton-in-Gordano. This supply is constant and the quality is satisfactory.

The few remaining dwellings, the largest group of these being about twenty bungalows at Nightingale Valley Road, Redcliffe Bay, are dependent on wells and rainwater.

Portbury. The village, Portishead Road, and a few other houses are supplied with a constant supply by the Portishead Water Company. The remainder of the parish is supplied by wells, springs, and rainwater.

Tickenham. The greater portion is supplied by the Clevedon Water Company, the supply being constant with the exception of that to a small number of houses near West Hill where the supply has a tendency to be intermittent.

The small number of remaining houses are dependent on wells.

Walton-in-Gordano. The village has a good supply of piped water from the Walton Estate Supply. The Walton Bay area, which consists chiefly of week-end bungalows is dependent on wells, rainwater, etc.

Weston-in-Gordano. The village is supplied by the Council's water mains, the water being obtained from the Walton Estate Supply. The supply is of good quality and is constant.

Winford. The Felton, Potters Hill, Kingdown, and Winford portions of the parish have a piped supply owned by the Council, the water being obtained from a borehole at Felton. The supply is periodically analysed and is of good quality.

The remainder of the parish is supplied by wells, many of them of doubtful purity.

Wraxall. The village and Sixty Acres area have a constant piped supply from the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Houses on the Tyntesfield Estate are supplied by a piped service derived from a spring source.

All the remaining portion of the parish including the hamlet of Lower Failand is supplied by wells, etc.

Yatton. This parish comprising Yatton, Claverham, and Cleeve, is served by the Council's Yatton Parochial Supply, the water being obtained from a borehole at Claverham. The supply is of good quality, constant, and is sufficient for present demands.

A few houses and farms at Hewish are supplied with a piped service from the Axbridge Rural District Council's mains.

The following areas of the District are most in need of a piped water service owing to insufficiency or unsatisfactory quality of their present supplies:-

PARISH.	AREA.	APPROXIMATE NO. OF HOUSES.
Abbots Leigh	Blackmoor Road	15
Barrow Gurney	Bridgwater Road and Barrow Hill	28
Easton-in-Gordano	Haberfield and Markham	18
Kingston Seymour	The whole of the Parish	59
Nailsea	North Street, West End, and The Grove	70.

Parish.	Area in Acres.	No. of Houses.	No. of houses supplied direct from mains or from standpipes.	Percentage of population supplied from mains or standpipes.
Abbots Leigh	2260	157	140	89·3
Backwell	2929	539	403	75·1
Barrow Gurney	2064	99	36	37·3
Bishopsworth	796	582	565	97·1
Brockley	1148	53	43	81·9
Clapton-in-Gordano	1355	61	7	14·7
Dundry	2897	240	13	7·7
Easton-in-Gordano	1765	725	662	91·4
Flax Bourton	630	62	54	87·3
Kenn	830	65	24	37·9
Kingston Seymour	2652	59	–	–
Long Ashton	4190	820	789	96·2
Nailsea	2866	703	410	58·4
North Weston	1063	459	275	60·8
Portbury	2845	125	73	56·7
Tickenham	1629	185	152	87·8
Walton-in-Gordano	908	94	30	32·3
Weston-in-Gordano	708	39	27	70·3
Winford	3340	284	141	50·4
Wraxall	4125	345	260	75·7
Yatton	5602	799	778	97·4

SEWERAGE and SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There is nothing fresh to report with regard to new sewerage and sewage disposal schemes.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A monthly collection of house refuse by contract was commenced in the parish of Winford during the year.

Refuse collection by contract is now carried out in the following parishes:- Abbots Leigh, Backwell, Bishopsworth, Easton-in-Gordano, Flax Bourton, Long Ashton, Winford, and Yatton.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One house was found to be infested with bed bugs. The removal of picture rails and skirting boards and treating with Zaldecide insecticide cleared the premises satisfactorily.

CAMPING SITES.

Many sites in the District are used as camping grounds, a number of them being only used at week-ends during the summer months. Many of the sites together with the moveable dwellings are licenced by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Efforts have been made to confine camping and moveable dwellings as far as possible to certain areas, these areas being in accordance with the intentions of the Town Planning Schemes as most suitable for camping.

The sites are on the whole well kept and free from nuisances.

SCHOOLS.

There is no change in the number of local schools and all are in a satisfactory condition. Six buildings are used as temporary schools for evacuated children.

RIVERS AND STREAMS, SMOKE ABATEMENT, SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is nothing fresh to report in these matter.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the YEAR 1943.

Inspections.	No. of complaints received during the year	68
	No. of houses, premises, etc., inspected	409
	No. of re-visits to see that work has been carried out or for other reasons	107
	No. of houses disinfected, or to which disinfectants were supplied	36
	No. of visits to cases of infectious disease	41
	Tuberculosis:- Disinfections 13, Visits 15.	
	No. of cases of bedding disinfected	23
	No. of scabies baths arranged for infected persons	29
	No. of verminous premises cleansed	4
Sewers.	No. of new sewers laid down	1
	No. of sewers repaired or cleansed	4
	No. of visits to sewage works and installations	86
House drains.	No. of existing houses connected to sewers	1
	No. repaired or cleansed	16
	No. of drains re-laid	-
	No. of new piped drains laid	9
Earth closets, water closets, and cesspools.	No. of privies abolished	-
	No. of cesspools re-constructed or cleansed	8
	No. of new cesspools	2
	No. of cesspools abolished	2
	No. of new water closets	-
	No. of new water closet pans or repairs	1
	No. of new earth closets reconstructed	1
	No. of earth closets converted into water closets	-
New houses.	No. of new houses completed and occupied	-
	No. of new houses supplied by Company's water	-
	No. of new houses supplied by wells or cisterns	-
Water supply.	No. of samples of water taken for examination	21
	No. of existing houses supplied with Company's water	7
	No. of new wells	-
	No. of wells or cisterns cleansed or repaired	3
	No. of dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops inspected	151
	No. of bakehouses inspected	18
	No. of slaughterhouses inspected	-
	No. of factories inspected	6
	No. of statutory notices served	-
	Ministry of Health inquiries held	-
	Legal proceedings taken	-

HOUSING.

No dwelling houses were erected by the Council or by private enterprise.

The majority of the houses subject to demolition orders are temporarily occupied on licence or after being requisitioned by the Council. These houses have been let as far as possible to an approved tenant, usually one who has been rendered homeless by enemy action.

The erection by the Council of the four new houses allotted to the District for agricultural workers was commenced during the year and the houses should be completed during the early part of next year. Two of the houses are being built at Long Ashton and two at Clapton-in-Gordano.

1.- Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects ... ... (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	27
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	33
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932	14
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	15
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	17

2.- Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

(a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	9
(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	Nil

3.- Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

(C) Proceedings under Section 11, 13, and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ... ... Nil

(3) (a) Clearance orders made ... ... Nil
(b) Number of houses involved ... ... Nil

(4) Clearance orders confirmed... ... ... Nil

(a) Number of houses involved ... ... Nil
(b) Number of houses demolished ... ... Nil
(c) Number of houses to be demolished 34

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit ... ... Nil

FOOD.

The following food was condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

Pork Luncheon Meat	18 lbs.	Pork Sausage Meat	1½ lbs.
Boned Turkey Meat	1 lb.	Cooked ham	11 lbs.
Bacon	1¼ lbs.	Tinned Milk	329 tins.
		Canned Tomatoes	58 tins.

Slaughter-houses. The eleven slaughter-houses, nine of which are registered and two licenced, are temporarily out of use during the period of hostilities, centralised slaughtering taking place in a public slaughter-house outside the District, under the control of the Ministry of Food.

MILK.

During the year 102 samples of accredited milk and 67 samples of tuberculin tested milk were taken on behalf of the County Council and examined at the County Laboratory. 15 samples of mixed milk were also taken and examined at the County Laboratory for the presence of tubercle bacilli. The presence of tubercle bacilli was found in none of these samples.

Two new cowsheds were erected during the year whilst several have been improved with the object of furthering the production of designated milk.

No. of producers on the Register	341.
No. of distributors only	23.
No. of distributors who are also producers	60.
No. of producers of tuberculin tested milk	19.
No. of producers of accredited milk	32.

EVACUATION, 1943.

1943 was the quietest year in the Evacuation Department since the Government Evacuation Scheme came into force. There was a slight drift back to the towns and the number of officially billeted persons was reduced by a third during the year, there being only five hundred at the end of that period. At the commencement of the year approximately three hundred War Workers were billeted and I must pay tribute to the way in which householders helped, there being very few complaints having regard to the fact that these persons had to be billeted within close reach of Flax Bourton where there is only a small amount of accommodation.

The skin diseases which were such a trouble in the early years of Evacuation now seem to be well under control and only a very small number of infected persons had to be treated and these were cured very quickly.

The Grange at Flax Bourton, which was used for nearly four years as a Hostel for Difficult Children, was closed and the children were transferred to other similar institutions throughout the County of Somerset.

To conclude this report, there is little of importance to comment upon, as, once again there have been no new water supply or sewage disposal schemes or housing programmes dealt with during the year. A little progress has been made in providing houses for rural workers, four houses having been commenced and are nearing completion. Serious consideration of post war housing will probably be needed during the coming year. The sanitary condition of the district continues to be satisfactory and the work of the sanitary department has been efficiently carried on in spite of reduction of staff.

Once more I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence and support given to me in the performance of my duties and to the Officers of the health and other Departments for their able and willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT NEWSOME,
Medical Officer of Health.

15th. June, 1944.